

a powerful effect on the audience, which stood in a spontaneous salute of Edmunds and the country he served. Several joined hands over their heads in a show of unity. Applause burst forth at the song's conclusion.

Sen. Craig Thomas R-Wyo., read a statement from Wyoming native Vice President Cheney.

"I will not presume to offer comfort," Cheney had written. Instead, he thanked the Edmundses for their son's patriotism and courage.

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., presented President Bush's statement to Anne Edmunds.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of your husband," Bush had said. "I hope you will find solace in the knowledge that his sacrifice will not be forgotten. The nation is grateful for Jonn's service to our country. We pray for comfort and healing in this difficult time."

At the end of the service, an intense silence fell in the facility as the waiting rangers removed the flag from the casket, folded it ceremoniously and presented it to Edmunds family.

During the flag ceremony, people in the audience stood quietly, barely breathing. Many dabbed at their eyes, and their grief was palpable.

The intensity of the silence was broken by two bugles playing "Taps," then countered by the equally loud 21-gun salute.

A startled child cried, and the audience seemed to take a collective breath.

Following the memorial, family members were escorted quietly from the room while people in the audience stood reverently. The family's grief was reflected in many of their faces.

Lasley summed up the purpose of the memorial: "Jonn Edmunds is not honored today exclusively for how he died."

"We honor Jonn Edmunds for how he lived."

[From the Wyoming Tribute—Eagle, October 23, 2001]

GROUND ZERO IN WYOMING

(By Ilene Olson)

CHEYENNE.—A grieving Donn and Mary Edmunds stood in their driveway Monday to give Americans—and the world—a glimpse of their son and the tragedy of his death.

Spc. Jonn J. Edmunds, was a member of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 75th Rangers. He died Friday in a helicopter crash in Pakistan while providing rescue backup for U.S. troops entering Afghanistan.

Donn Edmunds, occasionally fighting tears, spoke for the family during the news conference:

"Jonn decided in his senior year of high school to join the Rangers because they were an elite force, because he felt he was up to the challenge and because he wanted to join the military for their college benefits.

"He was extremely proud of his achievements as was the rest of his family. He was a tough, determined, competitive young man who only accepted the best of himself and wanted to give his best for his country."

Donn Edmunds read an excerpt from a paper his son wrote while in high school:

"In 10 years I see myself still in the Army. I believe I will make a career out of the Army, which would mean staying in for 20 to 25 years. I will be contributing to myself as well as the defense of this country and the betterment of the world."

Despite his short time in the Rangers, Jonn Edmunds was the leader of a four- to five-member team, supervising half of his

squad of 10 to 11 members. Lt. Col. Scott Keller of the Army Headquarters in Denver said Monday.

Donn Edmunds, who characterized his home as "ground zero in Wyoming," said while their son's death has hit them hard, it hasn't changed his family's attitude toward the current war on terrorism.

"Even in this time of loss, our family wants to express our continued support for our president and his policies regarding the actions in Operation Enduring Freedom," he said.

The Edmunds family also expressed sympathy for the family of Pfc. Kristofer Stonesifer, 28, of Missoula, Mont., the other Ranger killed in Friday's crash.

In a news release Monday, Gov. Jim Geringer added his condolences to those offered Sunday by other political leaders.

"Jonn Edmunds symbolizes the thousands of young men and women who wear the military uniform," he said. "He was a model high school student who voluntarily chose to serve his country through service in the military."

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The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I thank my friend from Wyoming for his remarks. He and I attended the funeral of Jonn Edmunds together. It was a moving experience. I submitted my statement earlier in the week. We carried messages from President Bush and Vice President CHENEY to the funeral. It was a very moving event.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I want to talk a moment about a couple of subjects that I think are current certainly. One of them is the subject of energy. Energy has been with us for a long time. We have been talking about a policy on energy. We have been talking about doing something to strengthen our domestic production so that we become less dependent on imports particularly from the Middle East.

We have talked about the need to do something to help our economy, and energy has something to do with it. So it is an issue of security. We are now nearly 60 percent dependent on foreign oil.

Oil, of course, causes the movement and transportation not only in our economy but in defense, so it becomes even more important we deal with that issue as we talk about a stimulus for the economy. And we will be coming up with a number of proposals we hope will have an impact on the economy. Energy, of course, probably has one of the greatest impacts on the economy. The idea we could move into doing some development of facilities, we could do some new efforts to produce oil, would all have some impact on jobs and on our economy.

We have been talking about it for months now. We have had a number of meetings out in the swamp that were attended and supported by the adminis-

tration, by the President, by the Secretary of Energy, by the Secretary of Interior, to move forward with something. The House, of course, has already passed an energy bill.

We have been supported by groups of seniors, and I think understandably so. When utility rates go up, seniors on fixed incomes are the ones who suffer the most, and that is an experience we have all been through. Certainly, we have had also the support at these various meetings from labor unions, particularly the teamsters who have been there time after time.

We have been joined by Native Americans from Alaska who are dealing with that portion of energy. So we have had support from a great many people.

Yesterday there was a two-page ad in the Hill newspaper of all the people who are supporting doing something with energy policy. So there is very wide support for it.

We have not, however, gotten support from the majority leader to bring it to the floor. We believe that is one of the legislative efforts that should have a high priority before we can finish our work, which I hope we will do relatively soon.

So there is much that needs to be done. A policy in energy, of course, has to do with conservation, how we in our homes and in our cars can do more to conserve energy. It has to do with renewables. We need to put an emphasis on renewables so we can strengthen that aspect of production. We certainly need to do more on research so that we can find, for instance, ways to even more cleanly use coal and other kinds of volume resources.

We have to talk about production. We have to talk about access to public lands. We can have production. We have shown that in Wyoming one can go into an area and have production without destroying the environment, and we should do it in a very careful way, and indeed we will.

So despite the need for both the economic boost and for the defense and security aspect of it, we have not been able to cause the majority to bring this before the Senate. We urge it be done and done quickly. We need to bring this bill forward and deal with it. Perhaps we will deal with the House bill, but we need to bring it up and make some judgments.

AIRLINE SECURITY PERSONNEL: FEDERAL OR PRIVATE

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, on another item I want to comment on that I have heard quite a bit about, the House passed last night the airport security bill, and I am glad they finally did. Of course, the big controversial issue was whether or not those personnel that are in airports would be Federal employees or whether they would be civilians overseen by a Federal agency.

First of all, often, particularly in the media, there has been the impression that we either have Federal employees or continue to do it the way it is being done.

That is not the case. What is being talked about, if it is done without Federal employees, is the Federal Government would have oversight and the authority to authorize these kinds of activities; they would be overseen by a Federal agency, hopefully a law enforcement agency. There would be criteria for employees, there would be tests for employees, there would be measurements to be taken, all enforced by the Federal Government. The idea that would continue to be what it is, unless it is Federal employees, is not true.

The other interesting point is there has been a lot of reference, both by the media and also by the Members in the House pushing for Federal employees, to it passing 100-0 in the Senate. It did, indeed, but the reason is there are lots of things in that bill in addition to the matter of what kind of employees we have for airport security. Many Members would have preferred to have seen what the House put in, but we knew we did not have the votes. We wanted to pass the bill because of what it contained. The idea that it passed 100-0 does not mean there are not people in the Senate who would like to see this done in the manner as passed by the House.

As we go to a conference, I hope we can do that quickly. That is one of the most important and timely things to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

APPRECIATION FOR EFFORT OF SENATOR THOMAS

Mr. ENZI. I take this opportunity to thank the senior Senator from Wyoming, Mr. THOMAS, for all of the efforts he has made in three areas, as well as a lot of other areas, but particularly in three areas.

Energy, of course, of which he spoke, he has been one of the Members pushing for an energy policy for this country since I have known him, which has been quite a while. It looks as if we have the opportunity to get that done soon. It will be largely due to his efforts on the committee and on the floor.

I also thank him for the effort he is making in the agricultural area. Our State is very dependent on agriculture. He serves on the Agriculture Committee. I think he is the first person from Wyoming to serve in 40 years. He got in it at a particularly crucial time, as we were redoing the farm bill. I know that is extremely difficult work. When there are 10 Senators together, they offer 20 opinions. Trying to mold

those into one bill can be extremely difficult.

Of course, the Senator serves on the Finance Committee, as well. That is from where the stimulus package is coming. Again, there are multiple opinions regarding that package.

I appreciate the efforts and leadership of the Senator in all of those areas. I look forward to the great packages we will have as a result.

RACE FOR THE CURE

I also mention another effort led by his wife, the Race for the Cure, the breast cancer effort in our State. The four honorary chairs are his wife—definitely not an honorary chair; she spends a great deal of time all year working to raise funds to make people more aware of the need for breast cancer testing, treatment, and early detection. She is an honorary chair, along with our Governor's wife, Sherri Geringer, my wife, Diana, and Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN's husband, Fritz. They all work a lot of time during the year.

Last weekend, we were at a function that kicks off the next year's Race for the Cure. It is well underway. It is a great effort. It saves life, both men's and women's lives. That evening we were in Rock Springs, WY, for a different function called Cowboys Against Cancer. This event is not limited to any particular type of cancer. Rock Springs puts on an annual fundraising event where anyone in the community with cancer receives funds from this foundation, up to \$1,000, to help offset some of their expenses during the year. It is a great community effort to help out neighbors.

They asked me to emphasize that, even though we have this focus in the United States on terrorism, anybody who comes down with cancer has a form of terrorism. It is important we keep giving the ways we have been giving, as well as giving in new ways. The American people are the most giving people in the world. This is a time when we need to give in new ways, but we need to continue the old ways, as well.

When somebody in your family comes down with cancer, you have ground zero in your home, too. That is the potential for a total loss. I hope everybody keeps up all of those efforts, as well as the new emphasis.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Senator for his kind comments and I certainly enjoy working together.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TROUBLING TIMES

Mr. TORRICELLI. Madam President, these are, for all Americans, troubling times. While we are defending our Nation at home and abroad, we find ourselves with conflicting emotions. We are by nature a peaceful people but a people of enormous resolve, with a great love of our Nation, our culture, and each other. We respect each other's faiths. We respect the faiths and cultures of those of other nations.

This mix of emotions has placed us in an extraordinary position. Two principal issues arise from this dilemma. First, in the midst of a military campaign in Afghanistan, we now find the religious holidays of the Muslim faith upon us, the celebration of Ramadan. It is a central date on the Islamic calendar.

The second issue is the extent to which our military operations in Afghanistan involve the inevitability and the tragedy of civilian casualties. I would like to address both of these concerns for a moment.

It speaks well of the American people that we would have a concern about engaging in military activities during the religious holidays of some of our own citizens, and more important, those of other nations. In a nation that is overwhelmingly Christian but with large Jewish and Islamic populations, it is a tremendous statement about America that even in the waging of conflict we want to be deferential to the religions of others. Indeed, it speaks well of our President that there is even a consideration of the postponement of military activities in our air campaign in Afghanistan during Ramadan.

I strongly urge the President, despite his best instincts, that the bombing campaign should not be postponed—not for a minute, not for a day. What happened on September 11 and the motivation of those who might have orchestrated this campaign from Afghanistan is all the evidence that is required that bin Laden, al-Qaida, even the Taliban are not practicing Islam.

The massive loss of life at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in the name of that faith is not only not in keeping with the teachings of Islam, it is blasphemy. It is blasphemy against the teachings of Mohammad and the Koran. It is an insult to every person of Islamic faith in the world.

For the United States to hesitate or suspend our military operations against al-Qaida because of Ramadan is to suggest that these people are actually legitimately practicing their faith or even, in fact, are of the Islamic faith. Their practice of Islam that engages in terrorism, the massive loss of life, the use of assassination and terror against their own people and the United States, their declaration of war against people simply because they hold a different religious faith or live